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OLC 71-0105

17 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Representative Ogden R. Reid (R., N. Y.)
re Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty

25X1 1. This afternoon I called Representative Reid to ask if he had discussed the above matter further with Senator Clifford P. Case since Mr. Meyer and I met with Mr. Reid last week. Reid said he had explained his own position to Senator Case, which was that some sort of private or semi-private organization should take over the operation of the Radios in order to improve their credibility and, perhaps operate them more economically than in the past. Reid said he had in mind something like the British Council. Reid got the impression that Senator Case generally shared this view. He said we could probably finance the Radios for [redacted] if we could take care of our "in-house needs" elsewhere. He further commented that such arrangements for the Radios might well be accompanied by arrangements for supporting cultural exchange programs, etc.

2. Mr. Reid said the sooner we could get an Administration position worked out with the White House and State Department the better, and I said we were actively pushing this and would hope to have something tangible to discuss with him in a couple of weeks.

3. I asked Reid if he had raised with Senator Case the question of possible Foreign Relations Committee hearings. Reid said he had not, but that he thought Senator Fulbright would give top priority to Laos in which case the Radios would not come up for the time being.

4. I told Reid I very much hoped that public hearings could be put off until we had a chance to come up with some alternatives. He promised to let me know of any further developments.

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